

# Further Insights to Guide the Development of Parish Goals and Action Steps

Excerpts from: *Wounded and Loved, Regathering the Scattered, A Pastoral Vision for the Church of Scranton*

**I CALL us to be servant leaders who are people of the WORD, preaching, teaching, evangelizing and cherishing the Gospel message throughout our entire lives.**

Meeting this challenge calls for reflection and study around the following practical considerations:

- A. Promote on-going family-centered Christian formation through cooperative catechetical programs for all ages and groups with the special needs of individuals and families in mind;
- B. Use the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults in all parishes as a primary means of fulfilling our mission to evangelize;
- C. Promote full incorporation of youth and young adults into the life of the parish through ministry programs and the inclusion of young people in parish activities, organizations, and structures;
- D. Develop and support teachers, catechists and others involved in Christian formation;
- E. Provide the opportunity for all the faithful to participate in ongoing programs of catechesis with special attention to lectionary based methods of learning in order to develop a greater understating of Scripture and its application in our lives and world;
- F. Engage a life-long Faith-Formation Minister to coordinate religious education and or youth ministry for the parish or regional partnership;
- G. Incorporate Catholic colleges and universities more fully into the life of the diocesan parishes;
- H. Impress upon all of the faithful our membership in the domestic, parish, diocesan and universal Church through catechetical initiatives;
- I. Re-focus our educational ministry or catechesis on events such as birth, marriage, death or other personal celebrations of joy and loss.
- J. Promote an ecumenical attitude by encouraging prayer and cooperation among various religious traditions.

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**I CALL us to be servant leaders who WORSHIP our God and celebrate the Sacraments in union with the universal Church.**

Meeting this challenge calls for reflection and study around the following practical considerations:

- A. Present Sunday as the “weekly Easter,” an expression of the identity of our community and the center of its life and mission;
- B. Develop a comprehensive catechesis of the Eucharist including the implementation of the Roman Missal;
- C. Find ways to promote: liturgical catechesis in the parish, an improved quality of participation by parishioners of all ages in Sunday Mass, the calling of men and women to liturgical ministries, the training of liturgical ministers, both spiritually and functionally, and improved use of music and art to enhance liturgical celebrations in a way that the world can comprehend;
- D. Help parishioners to understand that the same “Spirit” of God transforming the bread and wine at Eucharist is also breathing life into our scripture readings at Mass;
- E. Provide for the needs of new immigrants in the context of our liturgical celebrations;
- F. Engage a Director of Liturgy in each parish or cluster of parishes to coordinate worship for the community.

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**I CALL us to be servant leaders who build COMMUNITY through hospitality, respect, inclusion and holiness.**

Meeting this challenge calls for reflection and study around the following practical considerations:

- A. Nurture the personal relationship of our members with God;
- B. Deepen everyone's knowledge of God's saving ways;
- C. Encourage and empower members to be evangelizers at home, school, in the workplace, neighborhood, marketplaces, and places of leisure;
- D. Reach out to the unchurched, inactive and alienated, inviting them to join in the Church's belief and worship and life of discipleship;
- E. Strive to promote the consciousness that we are all part of a global community and our actions often have broader implications than just within our local community.

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**I CALL us to be servant leaders who engage in SERVICE to our neighbors near and far and who work for justice and stewardship to hasten the Reign of God.**

Meeting this challenge calls for reflection and study around the following:

- A. Involve all parishioners in social ministry and include awareness of human needs into all aspects of parish life and worship;
- B. Promote initiatives rooted in the Gospel of Life that both acknowledge and treasure all forms of human life as created in the image and likeness of God;
- C. Identify and act on local social concerns and educate parishioners in the common call to justice;
- D. Form regional or partnership “assessment teams” that determine strategies of service in the area;
- E. Include in our teaching and preaching an understanding of the Church’s social teaching and the responsibility of all Christians of every age to be involved in the work of justice, especially bringing the principles of justice and peace into their everyday life and work;
- F. Encourage all of the faithful to embrace fully their vocational calling as baptized Christians and to promote a deeper awareness of and appreciation for vocational calls to the priesthood, diaconate, consecrated life and lay apostolates;
- G. Take seriously the need to care for the Earth to create a sustainable future for the world;
- H. Address from a local and global perspective those in need by supporting opportunities provided by the diocesan office of the Pontifical Mission Society, Catholic Relief Services, and other efforts;
- I. Form parishioners in an understanding of stewardship as a responsible personal and communal use of time, talent and treasure within the Church and all of life.